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Balenciaga (Memoirs)



Synopsis

Christian Dior called Cristobal Balenciaga "the master of us all." The priest-like Balenciaga, whose private life remained a total mystery until the day he died, created day dresses of deceiving simplicity and evening gowns of staggering extravagance, and for them he was paid the highest prices in the couture world. His faithful clients were the great fashion plates of the postwar years: the Duchess of Windsor, Gloria Guinness, Pauline de Rothschild, and Mona Bismarck, among others. Cristobal Balenciaga was born in 1895 in Getaria, in Spain's Basque country, and at the early age of twenty-four he created his own couture house in San Sebastian. He opened in Barcelona in 1933, in Madrid in 1935, and in 1948 on the Avenue Georges V in Paris, where he could serve a more international clientele. Cristobal Balenciaga retired in 1968 and died in reclusion in his native Spain in 1972. The informative text and legendary photography in this volume beautifully document this master's immeasurably influential life and work.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a great book for those interested in knowing the career of Balenciaga. Marie Andr e Jouve had already written a larger edition on the topic, a book called "Balenciaga", published in 1988. She shows she really understands what she is talking about. What I liked most about this book is that it gives a general overview of the work of this master, including some high quality pictures of his most famous dresses. And for those who really prefer pictures, this is the book for you. The written part is really small, yet effective.

When i got this book i was a bit disappointed, i don't want to be too harsh but it wasn't what i was looking for. I was interested in learning about balenciaga but when i opened it up it was just a few pages of information and then it became all photos of the work of balenciaga with no information until you hit the end of the book with information on the photos. Should've read when it said memoir but that is my problem! It's a great book to have on your coffee table but if you want to learn about balenciaga this wouldn't be it.

While overall this is an excellent book and a wonderful resource, its a little heavy on his early work (30s and 40s) and a little light on his later work (50s and 60s). Creatively, to me, it seems he broke more ground in his later work but the book glosses over alot of that. Still, I'm SO pleased with the book. The photos are wonderful and pictorially tell a story of how Balenciaga evolved both as a designer and as a businessman, - and the book isn't shy about his faults and shortcomings, either, which is refreshing. A good book to have for any serious student of fashion.

This book is tiny - maybe 5" w x 8" high. Shame on for not providing a proper description. The photographs are lovely and bleed to the edges, but too small to really enjoy. The book's size description is obviously incorrect (.8??) but because one reviewer's title was "coffee table book" I assumed it would be a large book. The first few pages are text and the rest is photos. I am returning the book because, as a visual person, I prefer larger photos.

Beautiful pictures, great book, I'm a seamstress and enjoy seeing all this designs and story's! I will recommend this book to any one who loves couture

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